

P Y T H A G O R A S

A N

O D E.

To which are Prefixed

O B S E R V A T I O N S

O N

T A S T E,

A N D O N

E D U C A T I O N.

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Qui didicit Patriæ quid debeat, et quid Amicis,  
Quo sit Amore Parens, quo Frater, amandus, et Hospes,  
Quod sit Conscripti, quod Judicis, Officium, quæ  
Partes in Bellum missi Ducis, ille profecto  
Reddere Personæ scit convenientia cuique.

HOR.

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L O N D O N :

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*A Continuation of the DISCOURSE before the*  
**TRYAL of HERCULES.**

**V**ARIOUS are the Causes of the present Depravity of Taste which prevails almost over all *England*; some I have before pointed out: one of the greatest is in the Education of Youth. The Encrease of Boarding-Schools for Boys is an Evil of worse Consequence, I fear, than most Persons are apprehensive of: the unwary among the wealthy Citizens, and indeed among our Families of Birth and Fortune, are tempted to send their Children to such Places by the vain Promises of the illiterate and tasteless Teachers, who undertake to instruct them in every Part of Literature with more Expedition than is used in great Schools; the Consequence of which is, that ninety-nine in an hundred are sent more awkward Blockheads into the World than Nature made them: they are rendered knowing scarcely in one Branch of Learning, tho' awhile under the Pretence of being instructed in all. If Parents would enquire into the Qualifications of Masters of such Schools as I am here speaking of, they would find them insufficient to answer their Expectations. These presumptuous *Undertakers* (for no better Appellation do they deserve) consist chiefly of Clergymen, whose Wants are not only confined to the Goods of Life, of ignorant dissenting Ministers, and of hungry *Scotchmen*, who are ready to undertake whatever is proposed to them; rather than not eat, they will engage to sustain the Labours of *Hercules*, or to ease *Atlas* of the Weight of the World. If a wise, a virtuous and vigorous, Generation is worth our Care, this is a Case worthy the Consideration of our Legislature: the natural Vigour of a sprightly Mind is depressed by such a grovelling Education; and the unhappy Youth is sent into the World among Men an unformed Creature, and, like the Owl among Birds, is often forced to retire from all social Haunts. This is not the only Instance of wrong Education: too many of our Nobility and other Families of Distinction are too hasty in sending their Sons abroad, and too inadvertent in their Choice of Tutors: when young Men are sent into foreign Parts without any Knowledge of their native Country, perfected in no Language, unfurnished with Principles of Religion, Philosophy, Policy, or OEconomy, and with Tutors unequal to the great Work of Instruction,



on, (as all are who cannot distinguish Beauty from Deformity in Compositions of Writing,) they are likely to return Home with little more than Acquisitions of ill Habits, and unimproved Years.

When long Practice has so well confirmed the Benefits of an Education in great public Schools, previous to that in our own Universities, Nothing but an unaccountable Perverseness and misguided Judgement can make Men recede from an Education, to which many of their Forefathers owe the illustrious Characters with which they are clothed in our Histories. The Mind, that is naturally well formed for the Reception of beautiful Images, will always find an early Advantage in a right Education; and many, to whom Nature has not been very kind in bestowing on them a quick Apprehension, will by such an Education be made capable of passing thro Life with Approbation, tho not with Applause.

As the principal End of this Discourse is to shew the Connection between *good Taste* and *good Manners*, an Examination into the early Approaches of Depravity is necessary: I shall therefore hereafter distinguish such public Places of Diversion as promote *good Taste* from those which are destructive of it.

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P Y T H A G O R A S

A N

O D E

T O

H I S G R A C E

*T H O M A S* Duke of *N E W C A S T L E*.

I.

**A**S to the West, in *June* the radiant Sun  
Hasten'd to close a bright and chearful Day,  
When *Philomel* her plaintive Song begun,  
As if lamenting the declining Ray,

B

Amidst

Amidst the solemn and the verdant Glade,  
 That cuts a Passage thro a spacious Wood,  
 Beneath a Beech's venerable Shade,  
 The *Samian* Sage rever'd for Wisdom stood:  
 Surrounded by the philosophic Youth,  
 Full of the God he read the Book of Time,  
 And thus prophetic with the Voice of Truth,  
 Foretold the transmigrated Sons of Rhyme (a).

## II.

In fair *Britannia's* Sea-girt Isle,  
 On which the fruitful Seasons smile,  
 Where Science shall her Temples raise,  
 And *Phæbus* plant his hallow'd Bays,  
 Where *Liberty* shall take her Stand,  
 The sure Palladium of the Land,  
 A *Chiron* (b) shall in *Newton* rise,  
 To search with Aid divine the Skies,

---

(a) The Word *Rhyme* is not here used in the modern and wrong Acceptation, but in the true and original Meaning.

(b) *Chiron*, who flourished before the *Trojan* War, "delineated," says Sir *Isaac Newton*, "*Σχηματὰ οὐρανῶν*, the *Asterisms*; for *Chiron* was a practical Astronomer." *Chron. of antient Kingdoms amended*, Chap. 1. In the same Work, Sir *Isaac* fixes the Time of the *Argonautic* Expedition partly by *Chiron's* Doctrine of the *Colures*; of which only Fragments are remaining.

Thy



Thy Secrets, *Nature*, to explore  
 More largely than in *Greece* before,  
 While *Shaftsb'ry*'s pure capacious Breast  
 Shall be by *Plato*'s Soul possess'd :  
 His Precepts well shall form the Age,  
 His bright Example shall engage  
 The Mind of each aspiring Youth  
 In Virtue's Cause, the Cause of Truth.  
 In *Xenophon* the heav'nly Flame,  
 That glows, shall brighten *Sidney*'s (a) Name :  
 In *Sidney*'s more extended Plan,  
 He shall assert the Rights of Man,  
 Shall shew whence Bliss, whence Glory, springs,  
 And fix the Claims and Pow'r of Kings.  
 In *Tillotson* th' *Athenian* Sage  
 Again shall warn an impious Age,  
 Shall shew to unmisguided Eyes  
 What Virtue is without Disguise.

---

(a) *Algernon Sidney*, whose *Discourses on Government* are superior to most Books on that Subject, and inferior to none.

Old *Homer* shall revive again  
 In *Milton's* bold and sacred Strain.  
 The daring *Æschylus* shall sing,  
 And soar aloft, on *Shakespear's* Wing ;  
 Wild as the Lark, but sweet and strong,  
 The pleasing Notes shall float along.  
 Majestic *Sophocles* appears,  
 To bathe the Charmer's Checks with Tears,  
 When *Gwendolen* for Succour calls,  
 When *Yvor* weeps, or *Pyrrhus* falls.  
 The *Mantuan* Swain, in Manhood ripe,  
 Once more shall wake the rural Pipe,  
 When *Philips* with his Oaten Reed  
 Makes glad the Grove and flow'ry Mead.  
*Plautus* and *Terence*, Sons of Mirth,  
 Shall give to *Steele* and *Congreve* Birth :  
 And *Roscius* Laughter shall excite,  
 Their Beauties when he calls to Light :  
*Roscius* in *Johnson* (a) shall revive,  
 To keep the comic Force alive,

---

(a) An Actor, who has done no great Honour to his Country by his Writings, in his Account of the distinguished Actors of his own time, is silent to the Merits of two of the greatest which ever appeared, *Johnson* and *Booth* : an Enquiry into the Motives of so shameful a Neglect is beneath the Dignity of my present Pursuit.

While,



While, form'd for Dignity or Love,  
*Booth* shall the noble Passions move ;  
 In him *Æsopus* (a) shall be seen,  
 The Voice the same, the same the Mien.

## III.

Here paus'd the Sage, while his admiring Throng  
 In awful Silence stood, prepar'd to hear  
 The sacred Numbers of their Prophet's Song,  
 No doubtful Sounds, but as the Day-light clear :  
 He into Kingdoms far remote, and States  
 Whose Liberties were gain'd by noble Blood,  
 Cast his discerning Eye, and read their Fates,  
 Empires which meanly fell, or bravely stood :  
 He view'd the checquer'd Roll of *British* Kings,  
 Infernal Monsters some, some Half Divine ;  
 Of these, their Statesmen, and their Chiefs, he sings,  
 From *Saxon Alfred* to the *Brunswick* Line.

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(a) The Tragedian *Æsopus* was Cotemporary with *Roscius*, and lived in a familiar Friendship with *Cicero* : and *Johnson* and *Booth* were as much esteemed for their good Sense and social Virtues as for their Excellence as Actors.

## IV.

They come, they come! Each awful Shade

Now walks majestic cross the Glade :

I see each venerable Name

Led by th' eternal Herald Fame!

Kings who the Tyrant's Rod disdain,

For public Good who wish to reign,

Heroes with mural Honours crown'd,

And Statesmen for their Truth renown'd,

Men fam'd for private Deeds of Worth,

Call'd by th' immortal Herald forth!

I see the great, the God-like, Soul,

Of *Numa* from *Lycurgus* roll :

In *England* it revives again

In *Alfred's* wife and pious Reign :

Time, like old Ocean's Current, flows,

And Cent'ry after Cent'ry goes ;

Yet the same Soul her Race shall run,

Pure, and as lasting, as the Sun :

The same heroic Mind, the same

Bright Spirit, the celestial Flame,

The Prop of Liberty and Law,

Invigorates the great *Nassau* :

And

And *Marlb'rough*, in the glorious Field,  
 The Sword of *Datames* shall wield,  
 While the fam'd *Greek*, (a) firnam'd *The Just*,  
 Rifles to fill *Godolphin's* Trust.

*Cato* shall *Pelham's* Breast inspire  
 With *Roman* Worth and *Roman* Fire,  
 Fair Freedom's Banner shall display,  
 And shun no more the hateful Day.

*Pollio* polite, of Courts the Pride,  
 And near to ev'ry Muse ally'd,  
 Thro a long Length of Days shall go,  
 In *Dorset's* Form, without a Foe.

*Scipio* once more shall deck the Plain,  
 And grace a second *George's* Reign ;  
 In *Ligonier* the *Roman* Soul  
 Shall ev'ry mean Desire controul.

*Cadmus* (b), whose letter'd Fame shall spread  
 Where-ever Learning rears her Head,

(a) *Aristides*.

(b) This great Planter of Colonies is recorded by *Herodotus* as the first Promoter of Letters in *Greece* : where he settled a Colony of *Phœnicians* ; among which were the *Curetes*, the first Workers in Brass. The great and laudable Share which the Earl of *Halifax* has had in settling and raising an useful People in *Nova-Scotia* is well known, and will, I doubt not, be long remembered with the Regard due to so public a Spirit, and so great a Good.



Shall sow the Dragon's Teeth again,  
 In *Halifax*, nor sow in vain,  
 While (a) *Shaftsb'ry*, *Atticus* confests'd,  
 With ev'ry private Virtue blest'd,  
 Enjoys the learned Calm of Life,  
*Palmyra's* (b) Queen his envy'd Wife.  
 See, see, the wond'rous Mirror see !  
 The pious *Berkley* lives in me,  
 Extracting from the Hearts of Pine  
 Ambrosial Health, and Bloom divine.

## V.

As lab'ring with the God the Prophet gaz'd,  
 He saw an Eaglet with a milk-white Dove :  
 The gentle Bird, nor frighted nor amaz'd,  
 Skim'd by his Side, and look'd with Eyes of Love :  
 Beneath the beauteous Auspice cross the Lawn  
*Britain's* belov'd *Marcellus*, *Fred'ric's* Son,

---

(a) *Anthony* Earl of *Shaftesbury*, now living, Son to *Anthony* Earl of *Shaftesbury* mentioned in the second Stanza.

(b) *Zenobia*, Queen of *Palmyra*, tho a *Syrian* Lady, is said not only to have had a true Taste of the great Writers of *Greece* and *Rome*, but to have spoke the Languages in which they wrote with great Facility.

Walk'd

Walk'd with a princely Grace in Manhood's Dawn,  
 And seem'd prepar'd a glorious Race to run :  
 From the white Dove and royal Bird the Sage  
 Foretold an endless regal Race to spring ;  
 Whose public Virtues shall adorn each Age,  
 And ev'ry Prince deserve to be a King.

## VI.

The sacred Music of the Spheres  
 Now vibrates on the Prophet's Ears :  
 The *Theban* Harp and *Teian* Lyre  
 To animate the Grove conspire ;  
 And now the Notes begin to swell  
 More artful on the *Roman* Shell :  
 A Bard, to rise in later Days,  
 Governs these Instruments of Praise,  
 One, says the Sage, who shall disdain  
 The vile, tho much applauded, Strain,  
 Whose polish'd Verse will never find  
 A Passage to the vulgar Mind,  
 Whose slow, tho sure, Approach to Fame  
 Awhile shall circumscribe his Name,

D

Who

Who like the lonely Bird of Night  
 Shall give the judging few Delight ;  
 She, warbling on the dewy Thorn,  
 Wakes with her tuneful Woe the Morn ;  
 He, heedless of the tasteless Throng,  
 Commands Attention to his Song :  
 And now he plucks the choicest Flow'rs  
 Of Poesy for *Esper's* Bow'rs ;  
 Where all that Fancy can create  
 Of what is graceful, what is great,  
 Of what is lovely, fair, and sweet,  
 To captivate each Sense shall meet :  
 There from the weighty Toils of State,  
 And Councils held on *Europe's* Fate,  
*Mecænas* shall retire awhile,  
 To bid the Loves and Graces smile,  
 Awhile shall leave the Cares of Pow'r,  
 To pass with Friends an *Attic* Hour :  
*Mecænas* of distinguish'd Birth,  
 And Judge of ev'ry human Worth,  
 His Country's Guardian, and her Pride,  
 To Kings and to the Muse ally'd,  
 Shall act, in mighty *George's* Reign,  
 The same illustrious Parts again.

The



The Prophet his melodious Lay  
 Here closes with the closing Day.  
 O ! thou predicted by the Sage  
*Mecænas* of this later Age,  
*Newcastle*, take the Song divine,  
 The Poet and his Muse are thine:  
*Flaccus* and *Virgil* sung thy Praise  
 In haughty *Rome's Augustan Days* ;  
 I, now the Herald of thy Fame,  
 Shall often chant thy fav'rite Name,  
 Make it familiar to the Lyre  
 As Light to the celestial Fire.

**T H E E N D.**